AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 11. In Fig. 11, has been amended so that it now includes the label --Conventional Art--.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

Annotated sheet showing changes

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-17 are amended. Claims 18-20 are new. Claims 1, 8, 15, 16, and 17 are independent claims.

In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding claim rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication that claims 16 and 17 have been allowed and claims 2-7 and 9-14 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants respectfully submit that various clarifying amendments have been made to claim 16 and 17. Applicants submit these amendments do not materially change the scope of the claims.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized Applicants' claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from Applicants at this time.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figure 11 because it should be designated by a legend indicating that the figure illustrates that which is old. Attached hereto are drawing corrections in which the legend --Conventional Art-- has been included in Figure 11. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 8, and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,910,945 to Garrison et al. (hereafter "Garrison"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 recite, "calculat[ing] a synchronization deviation value with respect to an adjacent equipment on the basis of an arrival time of the synchronization response packet transmitted from said adjacent equipment relative to the internal synchronization timing." Applicants submit that this feature is neither taught nor suggested by Garrison.

In the rejection, the Examiner relies on Garrison's earth stations 12 and 14 as the claimed relay equipments, and relies on Garrison's user terminals 16 and 18 as the claimed terminal equipments. See Office Action at page 2, last paragraph. The Examiner further asserts Garrison teaches calculating the synchronization deviation value, citing Figures 3, 6, and 8; col. 8, lines 19-25; and col. 9, lines 39-52.

Initially, Applicants point out that column 9, lines 39-52 discloses the following:

> To effect this measurement, the user terminal 70 passes a communications frame received upon forward link 78 to a master demodulator 82 and passes a communications frame received upon forward link 80 to slave demodulator 84. The master demodulator 82 <u>compares the received master synchronization waveform with a stored synchronization waveform</u> to determine timing and frequency differences therebetween. The slave demodulator 84 <u>compares the received slaved synchronization waveform with a reference synchronization waveform</u> to obtain timing and frequency offset signals therebetween. Optionally, these timing and frequency differences may simply represent the timing and frequency error offset signals..." (Emphasis added.)

As such, Garrison teaches that the user terminal calculates differential timing and frequency measurements by <u>comparing a series of received synchronization waveforms with stored waveforms</u>. The user terminal transmits these differential timing and frequency measurements to the slave earth stations to adjust the timing of those earth stations.

The user terminal is synchronized with the master earth station in a similar manner. Namely, the master earth station receives from the user terminal a communications frame containing a synchronization waveform in a communications frame from the user terminal. The master earth station "<u>compares the sync waveform to a timing reference signal</u> to obtain the timing offset error therebetween" (col. 6, lines 20-24; emphasis added). "This timing offset represents the amount by which the user terminal must advance or retard its timing to properly align subsequent frames with the reference time of the earth station" (col. 6, lines 27-29).

Garrison <u>does not use the arrival time</u> of the communications frames to calculate this timing offset error. Therefore, Garrison fails to teach or suggest calculating a synchronization deviation value on the basis of an arrival time of a synchronization response transmitted from another equipment, as required by independent claims 1, 8, and 15.

At least for the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 8, and 15 are allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.
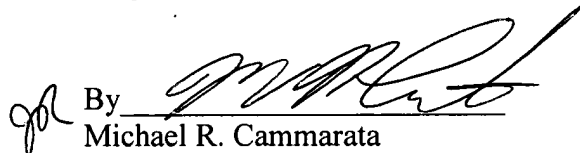
In view of the above remarks, Applicants believe the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative Jason Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 1, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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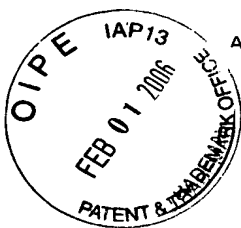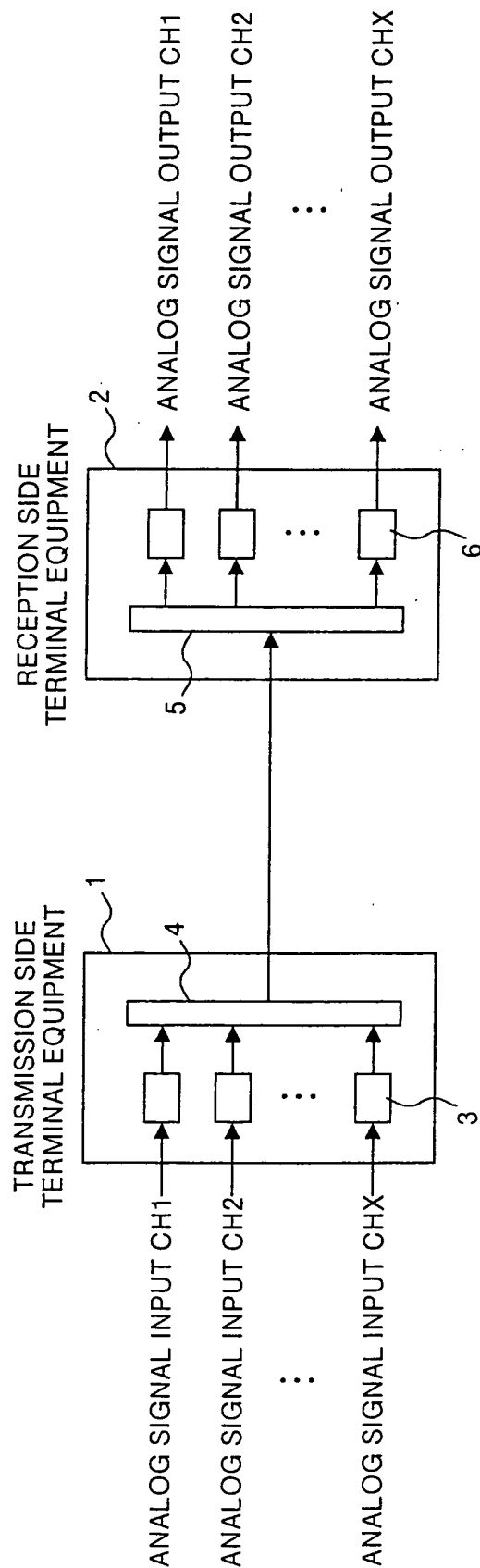Attorney for Applicant

Attachments

FIG.11

CONVENTIONAL ART